Polysemy of the word

Xamdamova Gulshan Xamroyevna[1], Shukurova Nigora Shavkatovna[2]

[1]English ESP Humanitarian department teachers of the Bukhara State University, Bukhara, Uzbekistan

Email: hamdamova_g@umail.uz

ABSTRACT

This article is devoted to the polysemy of the word in the Russian language.

Keywords: word, polysemy, fundamental property, paradox of polysemy, polysemantic word.

1. INTRODUCTION

The polysemy of the word is the presence of several related meanings for the same word. The polysemy of the word reveals a fundamental property of language, its ability to "convey the boundlessness of human experience by limited means"[1].

The polysemy of a word arises in the course of the historical development of a language, when a word due to semantic transfers, along with the designation of one object or phenomenon of objective reality, begins to be used to designate another, similar to it in some features or properties.

One of the founders of semasiology French scientist M. Breal said "The polysemy of the word is a sign of an acquired civilization" [2].

Many scholars have seen the paradox of polysemy in polysemy, the basis for denying the word as the basic unit of language, since the word does not exist outside the context.

Certainly, on the one hand the word is one and independent, and on the other-it seems to break up into a number of separate meanings.

However, this paradox is imaginary, because a person who knows the language well understands the expression золотые руки (golden hands), which is perceived by them against the background of the literal meaning of the word золотой (golden). And this does not in the least disturb the unity of the word, which is inherent in its very nature.

In our language consciousness, "the word is present with all its meanings simultaneously"[3].

Undoubtedly, some dependence on the context of the word exists. But this dependence does not prevent the word from maintaining its independence and out of context, and most importantly - to have a basic meaning, against which all the other meanings or shades of meaning that arise in the process of language development are perceived.

Potentially any word of the language can acquire a certain meaning when the need arises, so polysemantic words in the language, as a rule, more than single-valued.

In the Russian language, for example, has a particularly large number of polysemantic words among the vocabulary of native Russian origin or long-term use (compare polysemantic words дом (house), земля (land), поле (field), звезда (star), хлеб (bread) and etc.), while for foreign-language vocabulary, especially related to the field of terminology, polysemicity is not characteristic (for example, the words антология (anthology), батист (Baptiste), баул (Baul), вахтер (watchman), etc.).

The reason for the appearance of polysemantic words lies in the linguistic laws in force in the language. Such laws include, in particular, the law of saving language resources.

Since language resources are limited, and human knowledge is limitless, we are forced to use the same word to refer to different, but in a certain way related concepts. Another law that largely determines the appearance of polysemantic words in the language is the law of asymmetry of the language sign and meaning.

In accordance with this law, the sign and the meaning usually do not completely cover each other, since the meaning often cannot be limited to one word and tends to express itself by other means, and vice versa, the same unit of language can serve to express different meanings.

This law was discovered by S.O.Kartsevsky at the beginning of the XX century, calling it "the asymmetric dualism of the language sign": "the signifier always tends to have different functions, just as the signified tends to be expressed not in one, but in many ways. Although both of these aspirations are asymmetric, they form a mobile equilibrium in the language"[4].

This is the nature of the word, which tends to constant generalizations. If the word is deprived of this function, it will not only fade, but also lose its main feature-the ability to denote both concrete and abstract, and private, and General, and literal, and figurative. If language were "arranged" differently, it would not be able to convey all the variety of thoughts and feelings of a person.

Therefore, in the lexical system of any developed language, a "mobile balance" is preserved, despite the presence of two seemingly opposite tendencies.

Semantic development of the word occurs, as a rule, in two directions:

1) by changing denotations, when there is a transfer of the name from one object or action to another;

2) by enriching the concept and deepening the meaning of the word.

Despite the changes that occur in the semantic structure of the word, the relationship between the meanings of a polysemantic word remains. The presence of this connection also gives grounds to consider them as meanings of the same word, but to qualify as lexical-semantic variants.

Any polysemantic word consists of a set of interrelated elementary lexical units or lexico-semantic variants (the word поле in the dictionary of the Russian language by S. I. Ojegov has several such lexical-semantic variants:

1). "безлесная равнина" (treeless plain);

2). "обрабатываемая под посев земля" (the land under cultivation);

3). "большая площадка, оборудованная для спортивных состязаний" (a large area equipped for sports);

4). "чистая полоса вдоль края листа в книге" (a clean strip along the edge of the leaf in the book) etc., but all these meanings, or lexical-semantic variants of the word поле, are linked by the word "место").

The connection between the meanings of a polysemantic word is often manifested in the presence of common associative features that combine these meanings (compare for example, the connection of meanings in word тень: the main meaning of its темное отражение на чем-нибудь от предмета, который освещен с противоположной стороны (dark reflection on something from the object that is illuminated from the opposite side), тень от дерева "tree shadow" and one of the figurative –слабый след, слабое подобие чего-либо (a weak trace, a weak similarity of something) тень улыбки, тень сомнения (shadow of smile, shadow of doubt) the figurative meaning is associated with the main only by association.

The system of meanings of a polysemantic word is organized hierarchically, i.e. the main (or main) and derived meanings are distinguished.

The main meanings are the least contextually determined, since they arise in the minds of speakers when uttering a word out of context.

Derivatives (or figurative) meaning can be realized only in the context (compare, for example, the verb смотреть: its main meaning is "to do a glance to see someone or something", for example, смотреть в окно (looking out the window), в зеркало (look in the mirror), на часы (look at the watch), etc.; derived — "look like": смотреть молодцом (look well done).

When describing the system of meanings of multi-meaning words and their hierarchy, two types of relations of its meaning are usually distinguished — the main and particular and the invariant and variant meanings of the word.

The invariant meaning of the word is very generic, abstract and semantically the most simple meaning allocated in the word in the distraction from his specific modifications — options and typical of all its semantic variants.

(For example, the invariant meaning of the word вода (water), with meanings such as прозрачная, бесцветная жидкость, напиток для утоления жажды, водная поверхность, водное пространство (transparent, colorless liquid, drink to thirst, water surface) and etc. is the meaning of H20).

The ratio of all other meanings of the word meaning lexical-semantic variants to its invariant meaning is allowed to establish a semantic hierarchy of its meanings by the degree of proximity to the invariant meaning: the central meanings are semantically the simplest, while the peripheral ones (for example водная поверхность or водное пространство (water surface or water space) are semantically more complex, and therefore further removed from the invariant meaning of the word.

In the process of historical development of language the relationship between invariant and variant word meanings can change: historically, the secondary meanings can advance to the fore, compare for example, the evolution of the meaning of the word трущоба: in the modern Russian language historically, the figurative meaning грязная, тесно застроенная часть города, обычно на окраинах, где живет беднота (a dirty, densely built part of the city, usually on the suburb, where the poor' live) were fixed as invariant, whereas historically the basic meaning трудно проходимое место (impassable place) has become a metaphor, a figurative variant of the meaning.

The main and particular meanings are distinguished on a different basis, namely on the functional, when the behavior of the word in the context is taken into account.

The main meaning of a word is the meaning that is the least context-dependent, and particular meanings are the meanings that are the most context-dependent.

The word in the main meaning has a wide compatibility (which shows its independence from the context compare, for example, the combination of the word вода (water) in the first meaning of прозрачная бесцветная жидкость (transparent colorless liquid): прозрачная, холодная, питьевая, проливать, носить, вкус, запах, стакан, течение (transparent, cold, drinking, spill, wear, taste, smell, glass, flow).

In particular meanings, the word has a limited, selective combinability (compare the combination of words in the meaning of водное пространство (water space): внутренние воды (internal waters), территориальные воды (territorial waters), нейтральные воды (neutral waters).

The simpler the meaning of a word, the wider its compatibility, and vice versa, the more complex it is, the compatibility is narrower.

The development of polysemy occurs most often through metaphorization, which can go in different directions: from the natural world to the human world (compare the expressive and evaluative characteristics of a person such as медведь (a bear), зверь (beast), лиса (fox) and etc.), within the natural world itself — from one phenomenon to another (compare хвост животного и хвост кометы (the animal tail and the comet tail), within the human world itself (compare сердечный человек (heart man)).

However, the main direction of metaphorization - from the world of man to the world of nature (compare numerous names of production items such as голова (head), шляпка (hat), ушко (ear), кулачки (cams) and etc.)

The meaning transfer is usually made on the basis of similarity or adjacency of objects (phenomena) of the external world. Depending on how the meaning transfer occurs, there are metaphor, metonymy (as well as synecdoche as a special case of metonymy).

Metaphor is a transfer of the denomination by similarity.

The similarity between the objects and phenomena of objective reality can be based on a variety of signs.

Compare:

by color similarity: изумрудная трава, золотая осень (the emerald grass, the golden autumn);

similarity in form: гребень волны, бульварное кольцо (crest of a wave, the Boulevard ring);

similarity in function: фартук или дворники машины (apron or windshield wipers of a car);

similarity in location of the object: нос лодки, голова поезда (the nose of the boat, the head of the train);

similarity in nature of movement: гусеница трактора, крылья мельницы (caterpillar tractor, wings mill);

similarity in quantity: поток слез, море цветов (the flow of tears, a sea of flowers);

similarity in sound character: вой ветра, шепот листьев (the howl of the wind, the whisper of leaves);

similarity in value: золотые слова, жемчужина поэзии (golden words, the pearl poetry) and etc.

Some metaphors may have several features of similarity (for example, the metaphor крылья мельницы (windmill wings) conveys the similarity of form and movement).

In different languages, this similarity may be seen in different ways (compare, for example, the name of the hole in the needle for threading: in Russian, it is named after the similarity with the ear (ушко), in English by the similarity with the eye (глаза), in French is also by the similarity with the oey (глаза)).

Metaphor can also be used when naming abstract concepts (compare Russian червь сомнений, (the worm of doubt), French examen Ыanc экзамен без оценки, зачет (exam without assessment, test), as well as in the names of persons by their characteristic properties or qualities (compare Russian лица (Fox) хитрый, льстивый человек (sly, flattering man), лев (lion) сильный и смелый человек (strong and brave man), French etre vert быть крепким (о человеке) (to be strong) (about a person), where the meaning French fort крепкий (strong) is passed by the adjective vert зеленый (green) and etc.

In this case, the metaphorical transfer is carried out not on the external, but on the internal similarity that underlies the impression, evaluation, and sensation (compare Russian сухой ответ (dry response), теплая встреча (warm welcome), and холодный прием (cold reception)).

The use of words with a specific object meaning contributes to these names semantic component assessment (compare, for example, French metaphorical derogatory names of persons, which are based on the names of vegetables or fruits.

French word gourde:

1. тыква (pumpkin);
2. In oral speech balda(goosey);

poire:

1. груша (pear);
2. In oral speech простофиля (simpleton);

cotnichon:

1) огурчик (cucumber);
2) In oral speech придурок (moron).

Metaphor permeats almost all areas of the language. From this point of view, there are general language dry and figurative metaphors, poetic, newspaper-journalistic, author's and etc.

Dry metaphors — this metaphor, the imagery of which is in the process of the evolution of language has worn off (compare: стрелки часов, шляпка гвоздя (the clock hands, the nail' head)).

There are a lot of such metaphors in language, so the language is often called a dictionary of tarnished metaphors.

Figurative metaphors are allegorical designations of objects or phenomena of the external world, these are metaphors, the imagery and expressiveness of which constitute to strengthen the emotionally expressive color of the statement (compare: звезда экрана, море огней (the star of the screen, sea of lights).

Exactly in imaginative metaphors built the majority of Russian riddles (compare: Скатерть бела весь свет одела — снег (cloth Bela was wearing — snow).

Poetic metaphors are also figurative metaphors, but characteristic of the language of fiction, (compare: утро года 'весна' (morning of the year 'spring), зеркало 'лед' (mirror 'ice): «Как весело, обув железом острым ноги, скользить по зеркалу стоячих, ровных рек» "how fun, with sharp iron feet, slide on the mirror of standing, smooth rivers" (A. S. Pushkin).

Newspaper metaphors are metaphors peculiar to the language of the mass media (compare: рубежи года, пульс времени (the boundaries of the year, the pulse of time).

Author's metaphors are individual metaphors characteristic of the style of a writer or poet (compare: metaphors of Yesenin: Зерна глаз твоих осыпались, завяли; На ветке облака, как слива, златится спелая звезда. (the Grains of your eyes crumbled, withered; or: on the branch of the cloud, like a plum, a ripe star is Golden).

Metonymy is the transfer of a name by adjacency, contiguity, on the basis of an external or internal connection between objects.

In this case, the denotations, although they are not similar, are in a certain way connected with each other, since they are nearby in space or in time, one denotation can be the cause, and the other a consequence, one action, and the other figure and etc.

A name transfer can occur, for example, on the basis of the spatial adjacency of objects, (compare: in Russian, the meanings of the words дом, класс, школа, квартира (home, class, school, apartment) which can name not only a building or premises, but also a group, a group of people), the adjacency between the subject and the material from which it is made, (compare: «Не то на серебре — на золоте едал» "Not on silver-on gold edal" (A. S. Griboyedov); French: le cuivre медь (copper), les cuivres духовые трубы "brass pipes'), the adjacency between the subject and the content, (compare: «Ну, скушай же еще тарелочку, мой милый!» "Well, eat another plate, my dear!"(I. A. Krylov), between the action and the instrument of this action, (compare: «Перо его местию дышит» "the Pen of his revenge breathes}" (L. K. Tolstoy), between the author and his work, (compare: «Читал охотно Апулея, а Цицерона не читал» (read willingly Apuleius, and Cicero did not read) (A. S. Pushkin) and etc.

Adjacency in space is often the basis for transferring the geographical name to the object, substance, product associated with this place, for example, the name of the island of Cyprus was transferred to the name of copper: lat.cuprum, the name of China - the name of China in English, China.

This is especially the metonymy for wine (compare: херес, бордо, коньяк (sherry, Bordeaux, cognac).

The difference between metaphor and metonymy is that metaphor implies a shift in meaning, where as metonymy implies a shift in notation.

For example, a hat in metaphorical usage is растяпа (clumsy), and in metonymic usage is человек в шляпе (man in a hat).

Metonymy, as well as metaphor, can be сухой "dry", common language, inexpressive (compare: серебро, хрусталь (silver, crystal) in the meaning of изделия, образной (products, figurative) compare:

красная шапочка (red Riding Hood);

поэтической (poetic methonymy) (compare: синий вечер (blue evening);

газетно-публицистической (newspaper and journalistic methonymy) compare: золотой прыжок (Golden jump), авторской author's metonymy compare: Pushkin's metonymy: Их села и нивы за буйный набег обрек он мечам и пожарам (Their villages and cornfields for a riotous raid he condemned to swords and fires).

Synecdoche is the transfer of the name on the basis of a quantitative relationship: parts instead of the whole «Все флаги в гости будут к нам» (all the flags will come to us" (A. S. Pushkin);

French unepaille соломинка and de la paille солома (straw); an example of transferring a part to a whole can serve as the name of the week: originally the word неделя (week) means воскресенье (Saturday), this meaning is still preserved in the word in some Slavic languages, in Russian it was later transferred to the name of the whole week; or generic instead of specific, (compare: «Ну что ж, садись, светило» (Well, set down, the Sun)(V. V. Mayakovsky), as well as species instead of generic, (compare: «Пуще всего береги копейку» (most of all take care of a penny) (N.V.Gogol).

2. CONCLUSION

The phenomenon of polysemy is generated by social need. Metaphorical and metonymic transfers contribute to the enrichment of the lexical meaning of the word and thus the vocabulary of the language.

REFERENCES

1. Taylor, J. R. (2003b). "Polysemy's Paradoxes." Language Sciences 25(6), 637–655.
2. Breal M. Essai de semantique. Paris, 1913. P. 144.
3. Шмелев Д. Н. Проблемы семантического анализа лексики. М., 1973. С. 75.
4. Kartsevsky S. On the asymmetric dualism of a linguistic sign / S.O. Kartsevsky // V.A. Zvegintsev (comp.). History of linguistics of the XIX-XX centuries in sketches and extracts. Part II. – M.: Nauka, 1965. – P. 85-90.
5. Виноградов В. В. Русский язык. Грамматическое учение о слове. М., 1997. С. 14.
6. Ожегов С.И., Шведова Н.Ю. Толковый словарь русского языка / Российская академия наук. Институт русского языка имени В.В. Виноградова. — 4-е изд., доп. — М.: Азбуковник, 1997. — С. 3—5. — 944 с.
7. Ожегов С.И. Толковый словарь русского языка / Под ред. проф. Л.И. Скворцова. — 28-е

изд. перераб. — М.: Мир и образование, 2014. — 1376 с.

8. Басни Крилова. 2004

9. А. К. Толстой. Сочинения : в 2 т. — М.: Художественная литература, 1981. — Т. 1. Стихотворения.

10. Федотова С. Б. Цицерон //Пушкин: Исследования и материалы/РАН. Институт русского языка и литературы (Пушкин. Дом). — СПб.: Наука, 2004.

11. Маяковский В. В. Полное собрание сочинений: В 13 т. / АН СССР. Институт мировой литературы им. А. М. Горького. — М.: Художественная литература, 1955—1961. Т.2.

12. Н.В.Гоголь. Собрание сочинений в девяти томах. Т.5. М., Русская книга, 1994.